

SEP 1 1983

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9/1/83 BC

Official says land-pollution division needs to double its budget by 1985

By JAN CARROLL

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The state's division of land-pollution control will need twice as much money by 1985 to do a first-rate job of policing dump sites, the chief of the Environmental Management Board said yesterday.

"To what extent do we want to clean up the state? That's the question that remains unanswered," Ralph Pickard, the board's technical secretary, told a House committee. "Closely allied to that question is, are the people willing to pay for that cleanup? The state isn't lying around with the money, and industry isn't lying around with a bag of money."

The more than 400 Indiana waste operations that must be policed will take 65 man-years to inspect, Pickard said. The job is enormous, considering the size of the land-pollution division's staff, he said.

Fifty-seven people work in the division at the State Board of Health, he said. Six more chemists are being added because of an extra \$190,000 appropriated by the 1983 General Assembly, he said.

The division has a budget of \$1.7 million, which comes from both state and federal funds.

Ideally, he said, the division would have a staff of 85 and a \$2.7 million budget for 1984, and a staff of 123 and a \$3.4 million budget for 1985. The federal government would pick up some of that cost, he said.

Having a hazardous-waste disposal program will be essential to attract new industry to Indiana, he said.

"Somewhere along the way, if we are going to continue to talk to prospective industry, we are going to have to be able to answer the question, 'If we come to this state, what can we do with the hazardous waste which we generate?'" he said.

Pickard also said that finding

sites for waste dumps is a problem.

"Nobody wants either a hazardous or solid-waste operation on their side of the county," Pickard said. "I would suggest that everybody's got to be somewhere and so do solid-waste operations."

Committee chairman Richard Mangus, R-Lakeville, said landfills that pose no environmental threat should be placed near metropolitan areas that generate the most waste.

"If a landfill is safe, why put it 20 miles out in the county next to a dairy farm?" asked Mangus, a dairy farmer.

David D. Lamm, director of land-pollution control for the Board of Health, said there are five staff members in the inspection division to keep tabs on 125 landfills in Indiana.

The inspectors get to each landfill once every three to six weeks, he said, and that translates into about 2,000 inspections a year.